

September 27, 2024

## REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Fellow Trustees,

I enjoyed a productive and quiet summer spent in Kingston familiarizing myself with the office, building important relationships, joining committees, and preparing for the year ahead. This has been my sixth first day of school at Queen's and it never gets old! Here on the grounds, campus is infused with the compelling energy of our student body. They are ready to learn, research, teach, run events, fundraise for our community, make some noise, join conversations, and form strong relationships – everything I love about the Queen's way of life.

**Community Engagement** | A highlight of my first semester in office has been the wonderful opportunities to connect with and celebrate our community. I was officially [installed in Grant Hall](#) and presided over seven [convocation ceremonies](#), presented two awards at the [QUAA Gala](#) in Toronto, attended the [cancer research gift announcement](#), walked the [Kingston Pride parade](#) with the Faculty of Education, joined the [United Way KFL&A 2024 campaign kick-off](#), and ran all around during orientation week speaking at [leader training](#) and [Faculty events](#), connecting with [clubs](#), and chatting with [new grad students](#). Through these events, I have observed firsthand the impactful contributions of our students and alumni. I am being intentional about meeting students where they are by carving out time in my calendar to attend student programming, like lunches at the International Centre (QUIC), Shabbot dinner with Hillel, and programing at the Yellow House. It is through these interactions that I've been able to witness and hear diverse experiences and opinions, which make me better prepared to fulfill my duties.

**Office** | I have implemented supports to make sure that I can address the platform goals I campaigned on, while managing my other work and school commitments. The Office now has access to the Queen's enterprise accounts for Sprout Social, Canto, and Adobe. I also hired two part-time student staff members – a Multimedia Producer and Communications & Engagement Officer. I would like to thank the members of the University Council, who participated in a focus group to test and discuss my communication goals and plan. I am learning so much, and guidance from caring and skilled alumni is always appreciated.

**Committee work** | In addition to Board involvement, I have joined several committees that are keeping me quite engaged with matters involving hiring, investments, accommodations, and community engagement. I have much respect and appreciation for Queen's willingness to have students sit around these tables and actively contribute to conversations about important campus topics.



**Rector's Bursary** | I oversee an [emergency bursary](#) for students facing unexpected costs. I have had the same number of students request this fund just this summer, as the last Rectorship had during the entire school year. I am not able to sustain this volume of requests and will be strategizing on ways to increase its impact through giving outreach efforts, in addition to establishing a better system for processing requests.

**Student Leader Development Day** | Since my early days in student government, I longed for professional learning opportunities that would make me more confident, responsible, and effective in my work. Student leaders at Queen's take on big portfolios, with a large audience of constituents looking to them for support. What started as a dream, turned into a soft mention during my election for Rector, and is now coming to fruition. Thanks to the generous support of the Principal's Office and University Secretariat and Legal Counsel, I have invited student leaders at the AMS, SGPS, Faculty Societies, Senate, and Board of Trustees to engage in a full-day of learning at the Donald Gordon Conference Centre on October 3rd. Session topics include University Governance, Being an Effective Advocate in Queen's Systems, Queen's Budget, Media Training, and Communicating with Peers. There will be a motivational speaker over the lunch hour and a 30-minute speed dating activity with Queen's Deans, Vice Principals, and other administrative leaders.

**Hate Has No Home Here** | I have partnered with Hill Werth, Ed'24 to be a diplomat of the [HHNHH campaign](#). This poster is a marker of a safe space for marginalized community members. Hill is providing Queen's and Kingston businesses with a way to stand strong together against hate. A 2024 recipient of [Kingston 40 under 40 Award](#), Hill's impactful poster has even caught the attention of the [House of Commons](#). This fall, 225 posters will be displayed around student government offices, the Student Affairs spaces, and all residence buildings. If you would like to bring a little 'Queen's' back to your offices, I can provide you with a copy this weekend.

**Rector's Digest** | I launched a monthly column in the Queen's Journal to diversify my communications to students and explore topics in student and University governance. There are now four submissions from the summer semester.

- [Welcome to the Office of the Rector](#)
- [Solidarity in Action](#)
- [Student Support Systems](#)
- [Searching for Queen's Administration](#)

At your service,

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